Export performance of Non-traditional items

1493. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the performance of export of non-traditional items since the liberalised reforms of July, 1991;

(b) whether there has been an improvement of in dollar terms in exports since the reforms were introduced; and

(c) what are the details thereof showing the performance of non-traditional items of exports since July, 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India's trade data is compiled of financial year basis. The export of non-traditional items which exhibited a negative growth of 3.3 per cent in US dollar terms in 91-92 as compared to 90-91 have since recovered and registered a positive growth of 4.5 per cent in US dollar terms during the period April-January 92-93, latest period for which such information is available, over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Besides domestic policies, exports depend upon a large number of factors such as availability of surpluses for exports, level of agricultural production, industrial production, availability of credit, inflation rate, domestic demand as also global factors like global trading environment, economic environment in our trading partner countries and external demand for our products. However, it can be said that a de-regulated environment in terms of simplification of policy and procedures etc. contribute to faster growth in exports as against a totally regulated export-import regime. Exports during the period April-February 92-93, the latest period for which aggregate data is available, have registered a growth of 2.81 per cent in US dollar terms over the corresponding period 91-92. Exports in 91-92 slid by 1.5 per cent in US dollar terms as compared to that in 90-91.

(c) Details of export performance of non-traditional items for the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and April-January 1992-93 and that for the corresponding period of 1991-92 are given in the statement annexed hereto.

Statement

(US $ Million)

Item	1990-91	1991-92	% Change	1991-92 April-Jan.	1992-93 April-Jan.	% Change
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Processed food	187.00	218.80	17.0	172.23	160.12	—7.0
Marine Products	535.04	585.23	9.4	470.13	487.22	3.6
Cashew Kernel	249.90	274.02	9.7	234.84	218.05	—7.1
Floriculture Products	4.39	6.00	36.7	5.02	3.68	—26.7
Leather & Mfrs.	1449.92	1268.77	—12.5	1061.70	1059.05	—0.2
Other Ores & Minerals	360.62	327.07	—9.3	148.87	141.73	—4.8
Gems & Jewellery	2923.74	2738.06	—6.4	2195.68	2301.23	4.8
Sports Goods	36.83	31.51	—14.4	25.06	28.90	15.3
Chemicals & related products	1715.07	1861.78	8.5	1566.43	1508.35	—3.7
Engineering goods	1918.47	1970.79	2.7	1525.22	1779.91	16.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Electronics & Computer Software	242.05	263.63	8.9	219.93	186.52	—15.2
Project Goods	89.83	18.46	—79.4	17.83	10.99	—38.3
Readymade Garments	2236.61	2199.23	—1.6	1695.28	1894.78	11.8
Petroleum Products	522.66	414.68	—20.6	320.34	397.38	24.0
Unclassified Exports	356.47	230.20	—35.4	261.09	192.10	—25.4
Total of above :	12823.60	12408.23	—3.3	9919.62	10370.01	4.5
Total exports	18142.84	17865.00	—1.5	14340.10	14659.97	2.2
% Share	70.7	69.4		69.2	70.7	

Import of News Print by S.T.C.

1494. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of glazed newsprint was imported from Canada, Rumania and Hungary in 1991-92;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no systematic evaluation was done of the goods thus imported by the State Trading Corporation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no proper laboratory test was conducted on the quality of the imported goods; and a huge quantity was later found to be substandard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that more than a million US dollars have been thus misused; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) While no quantity of glazed newsprint from Rumania and Hungary in 1991-92 was imported by STC, it imported a Qnty. of 2342-554 MT of glazed newsprint from Canada.

(b) As per the procedure evolved by Newsprint Purchase Committee (NPC), sample reels of Glazed Newsprint manufactured by M|s. Miramichi Pulp and Paper, Canada whose goods were supplied by the Canadian suppliers were got tested from two Indian actual users, M|s. Living Media India Ltd., New Delhi (publishers of India Today) and M|s. Times of India, New Delhi, who were nominated by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. STC appointed M|s. SGS, a reputed international inspection agency for inspection of the goods before shipment. As per the inspection reports of M|s. SGS, the goods were found to be as per contractual specifications. No laboratory test is arranged by STC in such cases.

(c) On arrival of the goods, the same were got tested by Customs from laboratories of Deputy Chief Chemist, Bombay test reports of which were found satisfactory. Later samples were got tested by the Customs authorities at the laboratories of Central Revenue Control Laboratory, New Delhi, Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur and Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay which were found unsatisfactory.

Third test conducted by Deputy Chief Chemist Bombay was found satisfactory, while the tests conducted by Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur